MUSCAT -

9

F.O.a.

SECSTATE
FOA/W

November 14, 1953

TOUSFO 201

CONFIDENTIAL

Sent FOA/W ____ rptd info Dhahran ____ from Jidda.

USFOTO 113. Embassy and USAOM feel initial contact with Sultan Muscat should be made by ConGen Dhahran not repeat not accompanied by FOA representative due to (1) little likelihood General Agreement will be signed but only discussed, (2) possibility that sending of US mission to Muscat at this time, particularly if it received publicity, might have unfortunate repercussions on present Saudi - British boundary negotiations. During initial visit ConGen can ascertain and evaluate nature of several projects of interest to Sultan. When general agreement ready for signature Director USAOM accompanied by technician to be assigned can proceed to Muscat for actual signing agreement and at same time negotiate and execute agreement covering one or two projects confined to coastal areas in total amount not to exceed $100,000 FY54 funds, such project(s) not to involve underground resources.

CORSON

HJCorson/JJJones/wbg

Muscat

SECSTATE
FOA/W

November 14, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

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CORSON

HJCorson/JJJones/wbg

A true copy of the signed original.

AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

file Muscat

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AMCONSULATE, KUWAIT

132
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 4, 1953
DATE

REF : Deptel 9, October 16, 1953

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
9	ARAB	INFO ADSER, *TR, DDM, DINES, EXSEC, GC, MA, MRSR, ONEA, PERS, NEAP,
	REC'D 11/20/53	OTHER STATE, BAGHDAD-3, BEIRUT-3, DAMASCUS-3, JIDDA3, ~~ADDEN-3, DHARAN-3,~~

SUBJECT: POINT IV AID FOR MUSCAT

FOA-65W

In the Department's telegram referred to above, regarding the authorization of Consul General Bishop's successor to negotiate a general technical assistance agreement with Muscat, comments were requested. The Consulate in Kuwait has already passed its comments informally to Vice Consul NOEL of the Dhahran Consulate General who was visiting Kuwait two weeks ago. To those informal comments the Consulate would only add a general note of caution that FOA personnel be discouraged from visiting Kuwait. As the Department is aware, even a casual recreational visit to Kuwait by FOA personnel would be subject to misinterpretation by the British, the Kuwaitis, and the surrounding Arab countries.

H M Symmes

Harrison M. Symmes
American Consul

Department please pouch copies to: London
Aden
Dhahran
Arab capitals

HMS/bc

REPORTER

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SECURITY INFORMATION

For File

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

170006Z

FROM: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

DATE: October 16, 1953

NO: USFOTO 113

CODE: CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED: October 17, 1953
3:30 PM

Sent Dhahran 76 from Dulles repeated information Jidda USFOTO 113
Kuwait 9 from Dulles Aden 16 from Dulles

NOSEC

Your despatch 45, pouched Jidda, Kuwait, Aden.

In view Bishop departure for October 18 successor will be authorized negotiate general technical assistance agreement Muscat as outlined Deptel 589 April 16. Department considering possibility FOA representative accompany Consul General Muscat provide detailed information and assist negotiation agreement. Comments requested.

HAGMEN

ga

Distribution:

1-FOA - Action
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WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S EMBASSY,

JEDDA

There has recently been much comment in various papers about incidents in the Buraimi Oasis. The following background information may prove of interest:

The Buraimi oasis consists of eight villages, six of which belong to the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi while two are situated in territory administered by the Sultan of Muscat. The oasis is situated 100 miles outside the frontiers claimed by the Saudi Arabian Government in 1935. Since then, Saudi Arabia has claimed more and more territory until King Ibn Saud is now claiming the whole of the oasis.

In 1951, it was agreed that no armed forces (or oil companies) should enter the area until the rival claims to the oasis had been settled by the Saudi Arabian Government and the British Government - representing the Sheikh of Abou Dhabi and, at his request, the Sultan of Muscat.

But in 1952, a Saudi official, Turki bin Ataishan, entered Buraimi with an armed force. The Sheikhs appealed to the British Government for help. The Sultan of Muscat asked the British Government to protest to the Saudi Arabian Government and requested the withdrawal of the Saudi Arabian forces. The Saudi Arabian Government refused and a British force was moved to the part of the oasis belonging to the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, while the Sultan of Muscat took steps to protect his own interests.

In a statement, published in the local press on the 2nd of May, the Sultan of Muscat and the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi declared that Britain was a loyal friend, endeavouring to protect the well-known rights of Abu Dhabi.

In October 1952, in order to prepare for a settlement, the British Government, acting on behalf of the Sultan of Muscat and the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, agreed to a standstill agreement which provided for a cessation of activities by both sides and for a resumption of negotiations. Yet, in March 1953, the Saudi Arabian Government had still not replied to the offer of arbitration and Turki continued his activities. The British Government, therefore, reserved complete freedom of action and, while keeping open the offer of arbitration, moved small British forces into the area. The object was to assist the rightful rulers to administer their land in the face of Saudi interference. There was no intention of attacking the Saudi forces.

In July, the British Government informed the Saudi Arabian Government that Turki had no right in Buraimi and warned them that nobody would be allowed to visit him and that his supplies would be turned back. These measures did not affect the local inhabitants as there are adequate supplies within the oasis. However, any hardship or inconvenience that might be caused was entirely the responsibility of those who were responsible for Turki's conduct.

The Saudi Arabian Government have at last agreed to the British Government's proposal for arbitration. But there is still no agreement regarding preliminary arrangements in the area which would allow impartial proceedings to begin.

A Foreign Office Comment On The Last Incidents.

Moreover some incidents occurred in the oasis recently, to which some attention has been paid in the local press. Asked to comment on these a Foreign Office spokesman gave a detailed account of happenings in Buraimi.

He said that during the early morning of September 15, a party of armed tribesmen attempted to enter the village of Hamasa and were intercepted by a patrol of the Trucial Oman levies who called upon them to halt.

The tribesmen opened fire and the levies retaliated in self-defence. "The British Government are not aware of any casualties from this first incident."

The spokesman continued: "A further incident later in the same day was more serious. A levy patrol from the village of Jimi was despatched to interrogate a man heading for Hamasa. On the patrol's approach, the man turned and fired in reply to an order to stop. Fire was also opened on the patrol from Hamasa, and in this exchange the tribesman who refused to stop was hit.

"After the patrol had returned to Jimi, a force estimated at about 100, apparently wearing some type of uniform, advanced from Hamasa towards the Jimi post in a threatening manner and the post's defenders, who numbered only seven, were forced to open fire in order to avoid being overrun."

حول واحة البريمي

بمناسبة التعليقات التي ظهرت اخيرا" في مختلف الصحف بشأن حوادث واحة البريمي قد يكون من المفيد ذكر المعلومات التالية ـ

تتألف واحة البريمي من ثمان قرى تتبع ست منها شيخ ابوظبي في حين ان القريتين الباقيتين تقعان في اراضي يتولى سلطان مسقط ادارة شئونهما. وتقع واحة البريمي على بعد مائة ميل خارج الحدود التي ادعتها الحكومة العربية السعودية في عام ١٩٣٥. ومنذ ذلك الحين اخذت تلك الحكومة توسع شيئا" فشيئا" رقعة الارض التي تدعي تبعيتها اليها الى ان اصبح الملك ابن السعود يطالب اليوم وبغير سند بواحة البريمي كلها.

وفي عام ١٩٥١ تم الاتفاق على ان لا تدخل هذه المنطقة اية قوات مسلّحة (او شركات للبترول) الى ان يسوى النزاع القائم بين الطرفين بواسطة الحكومة العربية السعودية والحكومة البريطانية التي تمثل شيخ ابوظبي كما تمثل سلطان مسقط بناء على طلبه.

بيد ان موظفا" سعوديا" رسميا" هو تركي بن عتيشان قد دخل البريمي بقوة مسلحة في عام ١٩٥٢ فاستغاث شيوخ البريمي بالحكومة البريطانية لمساعدتهم كما طلب سلطان مسقط من الحكومة البريطانية ان تحتج لدى الحكومة العربية السعودية مطالبا" بسحب قواتها فرفضت الحكومة العربية السعودية هذا الطلب. فتحركت قوة بريطانية الى ذلك الجزء من الواحة الذي يتبع شيخ ابوظبي في حين ان سلطان مسقط اتخذ من جانبه خطوات لحماية مصالحه.

وقد اعلن كل من سلطان مسقط وشيخ ابوظبي في بيان نشر في الصحف المحلية في الثاني من شهر مايو انهما يعتبران بريطانيا صديقا" وفيّا" يبذل جهده لحماية حقوق ابوظبي المعروفة.

وعلى اية حال فان اية صعوبات او متاعب قد تنشأ انما تقع تبعتها على اولئك المسئولين عن سلوك تركي وتصرفاته. واخيرا" وافقت الحكومة العربية السعودية على اقتراح الحكومة البريطانية الخاص بالتحكيم. بيد ان الاتفاق لم يتم بعد فيما يتعلق بالترتيبات التمهيدية في المنطقة وهي الترتيبات التي من شأنها ان تتيح البدء في اجراءات نزيهة خالية من التحيّز.

تصريح لمتحدث رسمي

وقد طلب الى المتحدث الرسمي بوزارة الخارجية البريطانية ان يعلق على احتجاج سفارة المملكة العربية السعودية بلندن بصدد الحوادث التي وقعت اخيرا" في واحة البريمي ، فأدلى ببيان مفصل عن تلك الحوادث. ولا يزال الرد على الاحتجاج السعودي الذي قدم بشأنها الى الحكومة البريطانية في اوائل الاسبوع قيد البحث .

قال المتحدث الرسمي لقد حدث في ساعة مبكرة من صباح يوم ١٥ سبتمبر ان حاولت جماعة مسلحة من رجال القبائل دخول قرية حماسة بيد ان دورية من "عمان" على الخليج الفارسي اعترضتها وطلبت اليها الوقوف وحينذاك اطلق رجال القبائل النار على الدورية الامر الذي اضطرت معه الدورية الى الاجابة بالمثل دفاعا" عن نفسها .

واضاف المتحدث الرسمي الى ذلك قوله "وليس لدى الحكومة البريطانية اي علم بحدوث اية اصابات في هذه الواقعة الاولى" . ثم مضى يقول "بيد ان حادثة اخرى اشد خطورة وقعت في نفس اليوم. فان دورية من حرس قرية جيمي كانت قد ارسلت لاستجواب رجل كان متجها" صوب حماسة . فما ان اقتربت الدورية ودعته للوقوف حتى تحول وراح يطلق النار عليها . كما اطلقت النيران على الدورية ايضا" من حماسة . وفي اثناء تبادل هذه النيران اصيب الرجل الذي رفض الوقوف .

" وبعد ان عادت الدورية الى جيمي تقدمت قوة تقدر ب ١٠٠ رجل يرتدون نوعا" من الزي العسكري من حماسة متجهة نحو مركز جيمي وامارات التحرش والتهديد بادية في سلوكها . فاضطر المدافعون عن المركز ـ والبالغ عددهم سبعة فقط ـ الى اطلاق النار محافظة على حياتهم ولكي لا يجتاحهم المهاجمون .

وقال المتحدث باسم وزارة الخارجية ان كل شيء في حيز الامكان قد عمل في كلتي الحادثتين لتجنب اطلاق النار . واضاف قائلا" ـ "ان الفارق الكبير بين عدد رجال الفريقين الذين اشتركوا في الحادث الثاني ليدل اوضح دلالة على مبلغ حرص قوات الامن على تجنب اعمال الاستفزاز التي لا مبرر لها وعلى ان ما قامت به انما كان بقصد الدفاع عن نفسها فقط" .

ولما سئل المتحدث عما يتوقعه بشأن التحكيم في النزاع الخاص بواحة البريمي قال " ان الحكومة العربية السعودية قد قبلت هذا الاقتراح ولكن لم يتفق بعد على الترتيبات التمهيدية التي تعمل في المنطقة المتنازع عليها والتي من شأنها ان تتيح البدء في اجراءات نزيهة خالية من التحيز .